

May 6, 1975

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would rise to support LB 571 and I'd like to tell you why. Five seventy one is a policy statement from this Legislature to the med school in which we are telling them, for example, that we want the med school to furnish the residency programs inside the State of Nebraska. The reason we need this so bad is the fact that we need doctors outstate, in outstate areas in Nebraska. If we furnish the residency program, we keep 2/3 of the doctors that graduate through the med school. If we do not furnish the residency program, we only keep one out of eight in the State of Nebraska. In other words, if a graduate of a medical school gets to the end of his four years and he goes to Iowa or Colorado or some other place to get his residency, his one year residency program, then only one out of eight comes back. If you want to save 2/3 of those graduates, this is the way to do it. This is the only way that we can possibly solve the problem of having, of supplying the doctors to the outstate areas. a number of these student, for example, these residents, are required, are going through the family practice program. This is a Federally sponsored program call the Family Practice Act. You'll notice, for example, that in 76-77, they are to provide for 307 residencies which includes 55 in the family practice residency program. These are the general practitioners, these are the ones that will be outstate doctors before they are through. There is no way that we can solve the problem of getting doctors in the outstate areas of Nebraska without adopting this bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'd like to ask Senator Marvel some questions if he would yield. Senator Marvel, I'm in favor of this program, I'll be very blunt about that. I think that we certainly need to expand the residency program. I originally, a number of years ago, tried to do something along this line and had some problems when we tried to discuss them with the school but basically I believe that we have the right idea here if we can filter those doctors out to rural Nebraska. First of all, I'd like to ask you, did anyone ever contact you about this program, did they contact the Budget Committee in regard to expansion of the residency program when the school came before the Budget Committee?

SENATOR MARVEL: No sir, the first I knew about this bill was about a week ago.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Was there no indication to you by any of the medical school personnel that there was going to be a separate, an individual bill for the expansion of the residency program at the University?

SENATOR MARVEL: No sir.

SENATOR SCHMIT: There was not?